

colour as the body, tinged with dull rufous only on the forearm above the knees; hind legs similar, but with rufous tinge on back of legs above hocks and between the hocks and fetlocks; superciliary streaks and sides of face pale greyish brown; underparts pale greyish brown; throat and inside thighs white.

Hab. Chirinda Forest, Melsetter, Rhodesia.

Type. Adult female skin, B.M. no. 8.7.19.36. Collected by C. P. M. Surgmerton, Esq.

The writer considers these characters of slight variations of colour and size to be of local and family value only, always likely to arise where animals by environment and habit are confined in widely-separated patches of country. Such as these little forest duikers probably never move more than a few miles from their birth-place, and keep within the limits of restricted and isolated belts or patches of dense bush or forest, where conditions are scarcely affected by change of season, and the plants on which they live are always present in abundance.

These conditions would encourage in-and-in breeding, producing an infinite variety of races in which small changes of size and colour would tend to become fixed characters.

Possibly in the great forest-tracts of Central Africa a greater individual variation would be apparent, but south of that region there are no great areas of forest, but only isolated belts and patches occurring here and there along the courses of rivers, or in mountain-ranges, or on the coast, at wide intervals, each possessing a local race stamped with its individual trait.

XVI.—*On some new and rare British Diplopods.*

By RICHARD S. BAGNALL, F.R.S.E., F.L.S.

It is desirable to make the following records, *Leptoiulus belgicus* and *Mastigonodesmus boncii* being additions to the British fauna, whilst *Isobates* sp. would seem to indicate, from observations in the field, a new species.

I regret that, living in hotels, away from my literature, specimens, and appliances, it is impossible to make any useful descriptions or remarks.

Leptoiulus belgicus (Latz.).

A graceful Julid, with a single white dorsal line and pale

underside, described by Latzel in 1884 in an appendix to Preudhomme de Borre's "Note sur les Julides de la Belgique" ('Comptes Rendus de la Société Entomologique de Belgique'). Latzel figures the male organs.

I first discovered this species in a limited area in the grounds below Lincolme Drive, Torquay, October 1918, where it occurred in moderate numbers in dampish vegetable detritus chiefly consisting of dead bracken and coniferous needles. Only two males were secured, but, a month later, my friend Mr. J. Williams Vaughan collected me a further supply, which included a larger proportion of males.

First British record.

Cylindroiulus nitidus (Verh.).

Other than some of the original Staffordshire specimens, which my good friend Mr. S. G. Biade-Birks was good enough to send me, I have not seen male examples, and the following records refer to the female sex only.

STAFFORDSHIRE, Charnet Valley, near Froghall, and LINCOLNSHIRE, Harlaxton, August 1918 (*J. C. Varty-Smith*).

Isobates sp.

In the spring of this year I collected large numbers of a species very like *Isobates varicornis*, but lighter in colour, noticeably more slender and very much more rapid in its movements, being the most active Protoiulid I have observed. It is of a pale yellowish-brown colour, with large black lateral spots. Only one male, which awaits examination, was secured.

KENT, Leeds Castle, under elder-bark, 29. iii. 21; and HERTS, near Welwyn, under beech-bark, 1. iv. 21.

Mastigonodesmus boncii, Brölemann.

Whilst going through some tubes of *Macrosternodesmus*, I picked out a broken example which could be separated as apparently different by the naked eye. Thinking it might be a small example of *Ophiodesmus*, I examined it closely, and found that it agreed in every particular with specimens of the above species kindly presented to me by Brölemann. Unfortunately the single specimen was only a female, but, after comparison with specimens of *M. boncii*, I have no hesitation whatever in referring it to that species.

DURHAM, Gibside, with *M. palicola*.

Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Ser. 9. Vol. ix.